

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Data of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/B2005/001882	International filing date (day/month/year) 04.07.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.09.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D05C7/08, D05B11/00			
Applicant MECA SPA			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:	Authorized Officer
 European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Debard, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-4448

14/06/2005
WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/001882

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language **english**, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. **type of material:**
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. **format of material:**
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. **time of filing/furnishing:**
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. **Additional comments:**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/001882

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-27
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-27
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-27
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/IB2005/001882

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : WO 00/70137 A (MECA S.P.A; LANDONI, GIANNINO) 23 November 2000
(2000-11-23)

2 Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

an automatic multi-function multi-needle sewing machine comprising upper sewing members (14) and lower sewing members (15) cooperating with each other so as to achieve stitches (18) on a simple or padded fabric, with or without lining, and an auxiliary supporting bar (19) cooperating with said sewing members.

From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 differs in that:

it also comprises a plurality of accessory elements able to be selectively associated with said supporting bar by means of attachment means of a standardized type, said accessory elements being interchangeable with each other in order to achieve one or the other of at least the operations of multiple sewing, application of accessories such as ribbons, trimmings, paillettes or strass, tapes, longitudinally or transversely to said fabric, or crimping.

2.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT)

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as:
to allow a rapid reconfiguration of the machine.

2.2 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

The combination of the features of independent claim 1 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art.

2.3 Claims 2-16 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

3 Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):
a method to sew onto a simple or multi-layer fabric, with or without lining, for an automatic multi-function multi-needle sewing machine comprising at least upper sewing members (14) and lower sewing members (15) cooperating with each other and an auxiliary supporting bar (19) cooperating with said sewing members.
From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 17 differs in that:
it provides to perform one or the other of at least the operations of multiple sewing, application of accessories such as ribbons, trimmings, paillettes or strass, tapes, longitudinally or transversely to said fabric, or crimping, by the selective assembly of one chosen from a plurality of accessory elements being interchangeable with each other and all able to be mounted, by means of attachment means, on said auxiliary supporting bar.

3.1 The subject-matter of claim 17 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT)
The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as:
to allow a rapid reconfiguration of the machine.

3.2 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 17 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:
The combination of the features of independent claim 17 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art.

3.3 Claims 18-27 are dependent on claim 17 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.